

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 20, 1971

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The Governments of the United States and the Soviet Union, after reviewing the course of their talks on the limitation of strategic armaments, have agreed to concentrate this year on working out an agreement for the limitation of the deployment of anti-ballistic missile systems (ABMs). They have also agreed that, together with concluding an agreement to limit ABMs, they will agree on certain measures with respect to the limitation of offensive strategic weapons.

The two sides are taking this course in the conviction that it will create more favorable conditions for further negotiations to limit all strategic arms. These negotiations will be actively pursued.

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RELEASE

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE USSR

SOVIET EMBASSY, INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

706 18TH STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009

TELEPHONE ADams 2-3426

Moscow, May 20, 1971

SOVIET-AMERICAN TALKS ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS

The Governments of the Soviet Union and the United States, after reviewing the course of their talks on the limitation of strategic armaments, have agreed to concentrate this year on working out an agreement for the limitation of deployment of antiballistic missile systems (ABMs). They have also agreed that, together with concluding an agreement to limit ABMs, they will agree on certain measures with respect to the limitation of offensive strategic weapons.

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REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
ON NATIONWIDE RADIO AND TELEVISION
IN THE BRIEFING ROOM .

12:00 Noon EDT

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

As you know, the Soviet-American talks on limiting nuclear arms have been deadlocked for over a year. As a result of negotiations involving the highest level of both governments, I am announcing today a significant development in breaking the deadlock.

The statement that I shall now read is being issued simultaneously in Moscow and Washington; in Washington at 12:00 o'clock and in Moscow at 7:00 p.m.

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The two sides are taking this course in the conviction that it will create more favorable conditions for further negotiations to limit all strategic arms. These negotiations will be actively pursued.

This agreement is a major step in breaking the stalemate on nuclear arms talks. Intensive negotiations, however, will be required to translate this understanding into a concrete agreement.

This statement that I have just read expresses the commitment of the Soviet and American Governments at the highest levels to achieve that goal. If we succeed, this joint statement that has been issued today may well be remembered as the beginning of a new era in which all nations will devote more of their energies and their resources not to the weapons of war, but to the works of peace.

END

(AT 12:05 P.M. EDT)

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Москва, 20 мая 1971 г.

Уважаемый господин Президент,

Советское правительство внимательно рассмотрело ход обмена мнениями между делегациями СССР и США на переговорах по ограничению стратегических вооружений.

Исходя из обстановки, которая складывается сейчас на этих переговорах, Советское правительство считает целесообразным сосредоточиться в текущем году на решении вопросов, связанных с ограничением систем противоракетной обороны, с тем чтобы после заключения отдельного соглашения об ограничении ПРО повести активные переговоры по ограничению стратегических наступательных вооружений. При этом оно исходит из взаимопонимания относительно того, что ограничение ПРО явится существенным фактором также в деле сдерживания гонки стратегических наступательных вооружений.

В целях содействия созданию более благоприятных условий для поиска путей к достижению соглашения по ограничению стратегических наступательных вооружений советская сторона в принципе считает приемлемой идею "замораживания" стратегических наступательных вооружений и готова к достижению общего понимания на этот счет, имея в виду, что конкретные детали такого взаимопонимания, — в том числе вопросы состава стратегических наступательных средств, характера и сроков возможного "замораживания", — могли бы быть обсуждены перед завершением работы над отдельным соглашением по ПРО. Мы исходим из того, что "замораживание" стратегических наступательных вооружений не должно затрагивать возможности модернизации и замены таких вооружений.

Его Превосходительству
Ричарду М. Никсону,

Руководствуясь этим, Советское правительство даст указание своей делегации на переговорах с делегацией США по ограничению стратегических вооружений вести переговоры, направленные на выработку текста соглашения по ПРО, исходя из того, что условия ограничения систем ПРО в СССР и США должны быть равными для обеих сторон и не давать ни одной из них каких-либо преимуществ.

В этом соглашении будет зафиксировано обязательство сторон продолжать активные переговоры об ограничении стратегических наступательных вооружений.

С уважением

А. Косыгин
А. КОСЫГИН

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② Exchange of Notes
③ Subj file - SALT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1971

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have carefully reviewed the exchanges of our representatives during the past 18 months in regard to the limitation of strategic armaments. I have been struck by the serious and forthright manner in which these talks have been conducted. This properly reflects the crucial importance, both for the future of relations between our two countries and for the peace and security of peoples everywhere, of the responsibility we jointly share to work toward a safer and more rational world.

I have studied your proposal for an agreement limiting ABMs and understand the considerations you have advanced in support of this proposal. I am sure that you have likewise examined the proposals and considerations which my representatives have advanced concerning the relationship between limitations on strategic defensive and strategic offensive weapons.

Proceeding from the situation that now exists in the talks, the Government of the United States is prepared to concentrate this year on an agreement limiting ABM systems. After concluding the agreement limiting ABM systems, active negotiations aimed at an agreement limiting strategic offensive weapons should be continued. The U.S. Government proceeds from the conviction that the ABM limitation will make an important contribution to restraining the strategic offensive armaments race.

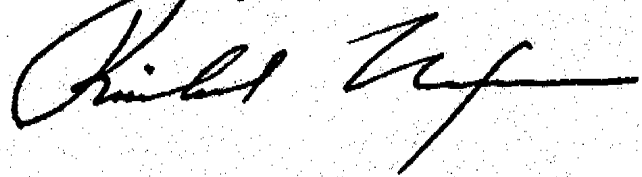
To facilitate an agreement on limiting strategic offensive weapons, the United States Government favors the idea of freezing strategic offensive weapons in principle and is prepared to reach a basic understanding on this point.

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The concrete details of this understanding, including such questions as the types of weapons to be frozen and the nature and dates of the freeze, would be discussed before the agreement to limit ABMs is completed. It is understood that the freeze on strategic offensive weapons would not preclude possible modernization and replacement.

Proceeding from the above, the Government of the United States will instruct its delegation to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks to conduct negotiations aimed at drawing up the text of an agreement limiting ABMs. The terms of limitation in such an agreement should be based on the principle of equality and not give either side an advantage. The agreement would incorporate the commitment of the two sides to continue active negotiations on the limitation of strategic offensive weapons.

Sincerely,



His Excellency
Aleksey N. Kosygin
Chairman of the Council of Ministers
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Moscow, U.S.S.R.